

POETRY.

(Original.)
TO

Adieu! the chain is shivered now,
That linked my heart and hopes with thine,
I leave thee to thy broken vow,
Thy dreams will, often, be of mine;
And tears,—be those the only tears
Thine eyes may ever learn to weep,
Shall tell the thoughts to other years,
Thy spirit cannot choose—but keep!

Adieu! enjoy thy pleasant hours,
Find other hearts—to fling away?
Thy life is in its time of flowers,
Gather May garlands, while 'tis May!
Oh! till the dreary day draws in,
And winter settles round thy heart,
And memory's phantom forms begin
To take a wounded spirit's part.

Adieu! thy beauty is thy bow
That kept the tempest from thy sky,
And all too bright, upon thy brow,
The sigh which must, so surely die!
These drops—the last for thee I shed
To think that there will be not one
To love thee, when its light is fled;
To shield thee when the storm comes on;

Adieu! oh! wild and worthless all
The heart that wakes this last farewell!
Why—for a thing like thee—should fall
My harpings like a passing bell!
Why should my soul and song be sad!
Away I fling thee from my heart,
Back to the selfish and the bad,
With whom thou hast thy fitter part.

Adieu! and may thy dreams of me
Be poison to thy brain and breast,
And hope be lost in memory,
And memory mar thy prayer for rest,
Why seeks my soul a gentler strain?
For thee my harp be, henceforth, mute,
Never to wake thy name again,
Thou stranger to my love and lute.

Fredericton, 22d July, 1830.

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VARIETIES.

LETTERS FROM GIBRALTER.

By the author of "the Military Sketch Book."
January 31st, 1830.

***** I have now been about two months in the garrison, and during that short time I have seen and heard and thought of many things worth writing down for your entertainment; but as I cannot within the limits of one letter touch on all, I will begin with the most interesting matter, and from its nature, I judge it will be as much as I can speak of for the present.

The subject then that shall occupy the remainder of this letter is the career of a desperate pirate, who was tried and executed last week. He had been a prisoner in the garrison for nineteen months, during which time the British Government spared neither pains nor expense to establish a full chain of evidence against him. The affair has caused the greatest excitement here, as well as at Cadiz, owing to the development of the atrocities which marked the character of this man, and the diabolical gang of which he was the leader. Nothing else is talked of; a thousand horrors are added to his guilt, which although he was guilty enough, he has no right to bear. The following is all the authentic information I could collect concerning him. I have drawn it from his trial, from the confession of his accomplices, from the keeper of his prison, and not a little from his own lips. It will be found more interesting than all the tales and sketches furnished in the "Annals," magazines and other vehicles of invention, from the simple fact—that it is truth and not fiction.

BENITO DE SOTO, THE PIRATE OF THE MORNING STAR.

Benito de Soto was a native of a small village near Coruna; he was bred a mariner, and was in the guiltless exercise of his calling at Buenos Ayres, in the year 1827. A vessel was there being fitted out for a voyage to the coast of Africa, for the smuggling of slaves; and as she required a strong crew, a great number of sailors were engaged amongst whom was Soto. The Portuguese of South America have yet a privilege of dealing in slaves on a certain part of the African coast, but it was the intention of the captain of this vessel to exceed the limits of his trade, and to run farther down, so as to take his cargo of human beings from a part of the country which was proscribed, in the certainty of being there enabled to purchase slaves at a much lower rate than he could in the regular way; or, perhaps to take away by force as many as he could grow into his ship. He therefore required a considerable number of hands for the enterprise; and in such a traffic, it may be easily conceived, that the morals of the crew could not be subject of much consideration with the employer. French, Spanish, Portuguese and others, were entered on board, most of them renegades, and they set sail on their evil voyage, with every hope of infamous success.

Those who deal in evil, carry along with them the springs of their own destruction, upon which they will tread, in spite of every caution, and their imagined security is but the brick of the pit into which they are to fall. It was so with the captain of this slave ship. He arrived in Africa, took in a considerable number of slaves, and in order to complete his cargo, went on shore, leaving his mate in charge of the vessel. This mate was a bold, wicked, reckless, and ungovernable spirit, and perceiving in Benito de Soto a mind congenial with his own, he fixed on him as a fit person to join in a design he had conceived, of running away with the vessel and becoming a pirate. Accordingly the mate proposed his plan to Soto, who not only agreed to join in it, but declared that he himself had been contemplating a similar enterprise during the voyage. They both were at once of a mind, and they lost no time in maturing their plot.

Their first step was to break the matter to the other members of the crew. In this they proceeded cautiously, and succeeded so far as to gain over twenty-two of the whole, leaving eighteen who remained faithful to their trust. Every means were used to corrupt the well disposed; persuasion and threats were resorted to but without effect and the leader of the conspiracy, the mate, began to despair of obtaining the desired object. Soto, however, was not so easily depressed. He at once decided on seizing the ship by the strength of his own party; & without consulting the mate, he collected all the arms of the vessel, called the conspirators together, put into each of their possession a cutlass and a brace of pistols, and arming himself in like manner, advanced at the head of the gang, drew his sword, and declared the mate to be the commander of the ship, and the men who joined him part owners. Still, those who had rejected the evil offer remained; on which Soto ordered out the boat, and pointing to the land, cried out, "There is the African coast; this is our ship—one or the other must be chosen by every man on board within five minutes."

This declaration, although it had the effect of preventing any resistance that might be offered by the well disposed to the taking of the vessel, did not change them from their purpose; they still refused to join in the robbery, and entered one by one into the boat, at the orders of Soto, and with but one pair of bars (all that was allowed to them) put off for the shore, from which they were then about ten miles distant. Had the weather continued calm, as it was when the boat left the ship, she would have made the shore by dusk; but unhappily a strong gale of wind set in shortly after her departure, and she was seen by Soto and his gang struggling with the billows, at approaching night, at such a distance from the head land as she could not possibly accomplish while the gale lasted. All on board the ship agreed in the opinion that the boat could not live, as they flew away from her at the rate of ten knots an hour, under close reefed topsails, leaving their unhappy messmates to their inevitable fate. Those of the pirates who were lately executed at Cadiz, declared that every soul in the boat perished.

The drunken uproar which that night reigned in the pirate ship was in horrid unison with the raging elements around her, contention and quarrelling following the brutal ebriety of the pirates; each evil spirit sought the mastery of the others, and Soto's, which was the friend of all, began to grasp and grapple for its proper place—the head of such a diabolical community.

The mate (now the chief,) at once gave the reins to his ruffian tyranny; and the keen eye of Soto saw, that he who had fawned with him the day before, would next day rule him with an iron rod. Prompt in his actions as he was penetrating in his judgment, he had no sooner conceived a jealousy for the leader, than he determined to put him aside; and as his rival lay in his drunken sleep, Soto put a pistol to his head, and deliberately shot him. For this act he excused himself to his crew by stating to them that it was in their protection he did the act; that their interest was the other's death; and concluded by declaring himself their leader, and promising a golden harvest to their future labours, provided they obeyed him. Soto succeeded to the height of his wishes, and was unanimously hailed by the crew as their captain.

On board the vessel, as I before stated, were a number of slaves, and these the pirates had well secured under hatches. They now turned their attention to those half starved, half suffocated creatures; some were for throwing them overboard, while others, not less cruel, but more desirous of gain, proposed to take them to some port in those countries that deal in human beings, and there sell them. The latter recommendation was adopted, and Soto steered for the West Indies, where he received a good price for the slaves. One of those wretched creatures a boy, he reserved as a servant for himself; and this boy was destined by Providence to be the witness of the punishment of those white men who tore away from their homes himself and his brethren. He alone will carry back to his country the truth of Heaven's retribution, and heal the wounded feelings of broken kindred, with the recital of it.

The pirates now entered freely into their villainous pursuit, and plundered many vessels; amongst others was an American brig, the treatment of which forms the *chef d'oeuvre* of their atrocity. Having taken out of this brig all the valuables they could find, they hatched down all hands in the hold, except a black man, who was allowed to remain on deck, for the special purpose of affording in his torture an amusing exhibition to Soto and his gang. They set fire to the brig, then lay to, to observe the progress of the flames; and as the miserable African bounded from rope to rope, now climbing to the mast head—now climbing to the shrouds—now leaping to one part of the vessel, and now to the other,—their enjoyment seemed to rise to its highest pitch. At length the hatches opened to the devouring element, the tortured victims of their fiendish cruelty fell exhausted in the flames, and the horrid and revolting scene closed amidst the shouts of the miscreants who had caused it.

Of their other exploits, that which ranks next in turpitude, and which led to their overthrow, was the piracy of the Morning Star. They fell in with that vessel near the Island of Ascension, in the year 1823, as she was on her voyage from Ceylon to England. This vessel, besides a valuable cargo, had on board several passengers, consisting of a major and his wife, an assistant surgeon, two civilians, about five and twenty irregular soldiers, and three or four of their wives. As soon as Benito de Soto perceived the ship, which was at day light on the 21st of February, he called up all hands, and prepared for attacking her; he was at the

time steering on the opposite course to that of the Morning Star. On reconnoitering her, he at first supposed she was a French vessel; but Barbazan, one of his crew, who was himself a Frenchman, assured him the ship was British. "So much the better," exclaimed Soto, in English, (for he could speak that language) "we shall find the more booty." He then ordered the sails to be squared, and ran before the wind in chase of his plunder, from which he was about two leagues distant.

The Defensor de Pedro, the name of the pirate ship, was a fast sailer, but owing to the press of canvass which the Morning Star hoisted soon after the pirate had commenced the chase, he did not come up with her so quickly as he had expected; the delay caused great uneasiness to Soto, which he manifested by muttering curses, and a restless manner. Sounds of savage satisfaction were to be heard from every mouth but his at the prospect; he alone expressed his anticipated pleasure by oaths, menaces, and mental inquietude. While Barbazan was employed in superintending the clearing of the decks, the arming and breaking of the men, he walked rapidly up and down, revolving in his mind the plan of the approaching attack, and when interrupted by any of the crew, he would run into a volley of imprecations. In one instance, he struck his black boy a violent blow with a telescope, because he asked him if he would have his morning cup of chocolate; as soon, however, as he set his studding sails, and perceived that he was gaining on the Morning Star, he became somewhat tranquil, began to eat heartily of cold beef, drank his chocolate at a draught, and coolly sat down on the deck to smoke a cigar.

In less than a quarter of an hour, the pirate had gained considerably on the other vessel. Soto now, without rising from where he sat, ordered a gun, with blank cartridge to be fired, and the British colours to be hoisted; but finding this measure had not the effect of bringing the Morning Star to, he cried out, "Shot the long-gun and give it her point blank." The order was obeyed, but the shot fell short of the intention, on which he jumped up and cursed the fellows for bunglers who had fired the gun. He then ordered them to load with canister shot, and took the match in his own hand. He did not, however, fire immediately, but waited till he was nearly abreast of his victim; then directing the aim himself, and ordering a man to stand by the flag to haul it down, fired with an air that showed he was sure of his mark. He then ran to haul up the Colombian colours, and having done so, cried out through the speaking trumpet, "Lower your boat down this moment and let your captain come on board with his papers."

During this fearful chase the people on board the Morning Star were in the greatest alarm; but however their apprehensions might have been excited, that courage, which is so characteristic of a British sailor, never for a moment forsook the Captain. He boldly carried on sail, and although one of the men fell from a wound, and the ravages of the shot were around him, he determined not to strike. But unhappily he had not a single gun on board, and no small arms that could render his courage available. The tears of the women, and the prudent advice of the passengers overcoming his resolution, he permitted himself to be guided by the general opinion. One of the passengers volunteered himself to go on board the pirate, and a boat was lowered for the purpose. Both vessels now lay to within fifty yards of each other, and a strong hope arose in those on board the Morning Star, that the gentleman who had volunteered to go to the pirate might through his exertions, avert at least the worst of the dreaded calamity.

Some people here, in their security, have made no scruple of declaring, that the commanding officer of the soldiers on board should not have so tamely yielded to the pirate, particularly as he had his wife along with him, and consequently a misfortune to dread that might be thought even worse than death: but all who know the true state of the circumstances, and reflect upon it, will allow that he adopted the only chance of escaping that which was to be most feared by a husband. The long-gun, which was on a pivot in the centre of the pirate ship, could in a few shots sink the Morning Star; and even had resistance been made to the pirates as they boarded her—had they been killed or made prisoners—the result would not be much better. It was evident the Defensor de Pedro was the best sailer, consequently the Morning Star could not hope to escape: in fact, submission, or total destruction was the only choice. The commanding officer, therefore, acted for the best when he recommended the former. There was some slight hope of escaping with life, and without personal abuse, by surrendering; but to contend must be inevitable death.

The gentleman who had gone in the boat to the pirate returned in a short time, exhibiting every proof of the ill treatment he had received from Soto and his crew. It appears, that when the villains learned he was not the captain, they fell upon him and beat him, in a most brutal manner, and with the most horrid imprecations told him, that if the captain, did not instantly come, on his return to the vessel, they would blow the ship out of the water. This report at once decided the captain in the way he was to act. Without hesitation he stepped into the boat taking with him his second mate, three sailors and a sailor boy, and proceeded to the pirate. On going on board that vessel, along with the mate, Soto, who stood near the mainmast, with his drawn cutlass in his hand, desired him to approach, while the mate was ordered, by Barbazan, to go to the fore-castle. Both these unfortunate individuals obeyed, and were instantly slaughtered.

Soto now ordered six picked men to descend into the boat, amongst whom was Barbazan. To him the leader addressed his orders, the last of which was, to take care to put all in the prize to death, and then sink her.

The six pirates, who proceeded to execute this savage demand, were all armed alike,—they each carried a brace of pistols, cutlass, and a long knife. Their dress was composed

of a sort of coarse cotton chequered jacket and trousers, shirts that were open at the collar, red woolen caps, and broad canvass waistbelts, in which were the pistols and the knives. They were all athletic men, and seemed such as might well be trusted with the sanguinary errand on which they were dispatched. While the boat was conveying them, Soto held in his hand his cutlass, reddened with the blood of the murdered captain, and stood scowling on them with silence; while another ruffian, with a lighted match, stood by the long gun, ready to support the boarding, if necessary, with a shot that would sweep the deck.

As the boarders approached the Morning Star, the terror of the females became excessive; they clung to their husbands in despair, who endeavored to allay their fears by their own hopes, assuring them that by a quiet submission nothing more than the plundering of the vessel was to be apprehended. But a few minutes miserably undeceived them. The pirates rapidly mounted the side, and as they jumped on deck, commenced to cut right and left at all within their reach uttering at the same time the most dreadful oaths. The females, screaming, hurried to hide themselves below as well as they were able, and the men fell or fled before the pirates, leaving them entire masters of the decks.

The brutal scene which followed the capture of the vessel I will not at present describe, having neither space nor time enough for its extent, but will defer it until my next letter; when I shall also give you an account of the providential manner in which the monster Benito de Soto and the other pirates, were brought to justice. I shall besides, attempt a description of Soto's person, which is the most remarkable I ever beheld; his face agreed well with the philosophy of Lavater, and his head fully honors the phrenologists.

THE DUEL.—At the commencement of the war, a young man, a native of Vermont, who had graduated at one of our Universities, possessing abilities rather above the common order, although diffident and retiring in his manners, and being without employment, resolved to join the army in defence of his country.—He was of a respectable family, and had acquired a large circle of friends, by whose instrumentality he obtained a commission. During his leisure hours he indulged in field sports, and was known to be the best shot in the neighbourhood. He had very often however expressed his abhorrence of duelling, and no one supposed his opinions arose from cowardice, but from his ideas of justice and moral obligation. Soon after he received his commission, the corps to which he was attached was ordered to our Northern frontier, and by application to his duties, he soon made himself respected as an officer and a gentleman. Owing to his natural reserve and his religious disposition, he did not mingle with his brother officers as often as they wished, and from some harmless jests, at first, which were received with indifference on his part, they were emboldened to insolence, inasmuch that after some time he became the butt of his fellows.—Nevertheless, he obtained the friendship of many of the officers, especially of the surgeon, of the regiment, whom he highly esteemed.—This surgeon, who had remarked with some degree of interest the insults which his friend had received, and passed unnoticed, spoke to him respecting his forbearance, and observed to him, that, as an officer, if he persisted in that kind of conduct, he would be considered unfit for the station he held; besides making himself the jest and laughing stock of both officers and men. On which he observed to the surgeon, that he should conduct himself as became a man on all occasions. He soon found, however, that the friendship of him, he most esteemed began to subside, the insults of the officers to increase, and that he must either decline, or be branded with the name of coward, if he remained in the service. At the next convivial meeting, at which most all the officers were present; the conversation naturally turned to those topics on which military men are most inclined to converse.—The observations became pointed and personal—of their motives no one could doubt. The most conspicuous in his insults, was a young ensign, who was reprimanded by our hero, in such severe terms, that he took the offence, and sent him a challenge without leaving the table.—Whereupon his friend, the surgeon, told him there was no alternative but to accept, and offered his services as a second. He did so—the arrangements were made on the spot, to meet the following morning.

When the parties arrived on the ground it was decided that they should both fire. At the first fire, Lieut. G., fired in the air, and the ball of his antagonist passed him harmless. The ensign insisted upon a second trial, to which Lieut. G. did not object; which terminated as the first, except a slight flesh wound received by Lieut. G. The ensign still not being satisfied, demanded one trial more; on which Lieut. G. whose patience was nearly exhausted, consented, and observed to the parties, that he had fulfilled the laws of honour to the letter, and respect for himself would not allow further forbearance; then turning to Ensign L. said to him, "I never yet have missed my mark—your time is come." They fired—the ball of Lieut. G. pierced the heart of his opponent, and he never breathed more. The survivor, with his friend the surgeon, returned to the mess-room where all the officers of the regiment were assembled waiting the result, and walking up to the table, without a word from the party, wrote a challenge, directed to any officer in the regiment, from the Colonel to the lowest in commission, and placed it before them. There was a silent solemn pause, for some minutes. No one dared to accept it; on which Lieut. G. drew his commission from his pocket, tore it in pieces, which he threw on the table, and left the service of his country, and the company of those who could not estimate the character or feelings of an honorable man.—National (U. S.) Journal.

ANECDOTE OF BARON HULLOCK.—In a cause which he led, he was particularly instructed not to produce a certain deed unless it should be absolutely necessary. Notwithstanding

this injunction, he produced it before it was necessary, with the view of deciding the business at once. On examination, it proved to have been forged by his client's attorney, who was seated behind him at the time, and who had warmly remonstrated against the course which he had pursued. Mr. Justice Bayley, who was trying the cause, ordered the deed to be impounded, that it might be made the subject of a prosecution. Before this could be done, however, Mr. Hullock requested leave to inspect it, and on its being handed to him, immediately returned it to his bag. The judge remonstrated; but in vain. No power on earth, Mr. Hullock replied, should induce him to surrender it; he had incautiously put the life of a fellow creature in peril; and though he had acted to the best of his discretion, he should never be happy again were a fatal result to ensue. Mr. Justice Bayley not sorry perhaps to have an excuse, for assisting the design, continued to insist on the delivery of the deed, but declined taking decisive measures until he had consulted with the associate judge. The consultation came too late; for the deed was destroyed without delay, and the attorney escaped.—Ann. Bog. 1830.

POST RUNNER.—In consequence of a new arrangement at the Post Office, the letter bags hitherto carried by Runners on foot from Aberdeen are to be sent by Gigs, to certain places appointed for the delivery of letters, in the districts to which the stages of the Post Runners extended, between the rivers Dee and Don, &c. One of these Runners, of the name of JOHN MILNE, who has been about 20 years in this service, has, in the course of that period, walked such a number of miles, as we believe to be without parallel by any individual at his advanced time of life. The following will be found pretty nearly the result as to the number of miles this Veteran has travelled during his arduous services:

Years.	Miles.	a-week.	Where to.	No. of
1805, 1806.	1 1/2	36	Aberdeen, Banochory Ternan,	16,848
Jan. to July.	1 1/2	36	do do	32,292
1806, 1812.	5 1/2	18	do do	32,292
July April	5 1/2	18	do do	32,292
1812, 1818.	6	24	do do	22,464
Oct. Oct.	5 1/2	18	do do	22,464
1824, 1830.	5 1/2	18	do do	22,464
Nov. Feb.	5 1/2	18	do do	22,464
Making the grand Total of				96,174

Being more than four times the circumference of the Globe.

This man was about forty-nine years of age when he entered into the Post Office service, and although he has now nearly attained his 74th year, gave a proof during the last week in which he was employed, of what he is yet capable, having walked each of the days of the 8th and 12th ult. 30 miles, and of each of the other four days, 15 miles; making 120 miles within six days, when such exertion was rendered necessary to make up for the irregularity in the arrival of the mails at Aberdeen, from the southward more especially, owing to their being detained by the deep snow with which the roads were then blocked up. During the extended period of his services, he was, we understand, most faithful in the discharge of the important duty entrusted to him, and performed his journey's with a regularity, and strictness to the time allowed him, most satisfactory to his employers; and of this he gives a striking proof, when speaking of the period of his greatest achievement in this way, that of walking 36 miles a day for 18 months, 6 days weekly—he says he never was a day out of course, or to use his own expression, "never lay a night by the road," from any cause whatever. He was kept in employment as long as the regulations now adopted would allow, and was the last Post Runner from Aberdeen. In the more early part of his life he had been in the army, having enlisted in the year 1778 into the second battalion of the 73d Regiment, with which he served for several years, chiefly at Gibraltar, where he distinguished himself in the ever-memorable siege of that fortress, under Governor Elliot; and speaks with pride and enthusiasm of the share he had in the gallant and successful sortie which was made early on the morning of the 27th Nov. 1781, by a strong detachment from the garrison, under Brigadier General Ross, when the Spanish outer batteries and batteries were nearly destroyed, their guns spiked, &c. Immediately after the peace, or early in 1783, the 73d returned to England, where they were disbanded. Our hero served afterwards two years in the Duke of Gordon's fencibles, and a like period in the Princess of Wales or Aberdeenshire regiment of fencibles, from which, on being discharged in Ireland, he, by the recommendation of the commanding officer, Colonel Leith, was placed on the pension list, for a wound he had received at Gibraltar, and draws, in consequence, a small pension of sixpence per day, the only means of support he has at present to depend upon.—Aberdeen Journal.

FOR SALE.
A Revised copy of the LAWS OF THIS PROVINCE, if applied for immediately. Enquire at the Gazette Office.
Fredericton, July 14, 1830.

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